

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Warminster, Pennsylvania**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
HELD MAY 13, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Centennial School Board was held on May 13, 2008 in the Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Monaghan at 7:40 p.m. The following people registered their attendance:

Board Members:

Thomas Hezel  
Betty Huf  
Jane Schrader Lynch  
Mark Miller  
Michael Monaghan  
Cynthia Mueller  
Dr. Andrew Pollock  
Thomas Reinboth  
Joseph Simpson

CEA/Teachers:

Christine Roviello  
Keely Mahan  
Heather Cowdrick  
Rachel Seidman

Administration:

Dr. Jennifer Foight-Cressman  
Victor Lasher  
Dr. Michael Masko  
Jean Rollo  
Timothy Vail

Public:

Fred Brimmer  
Chelsea Miller  
Frank McCloskey  
Larry Hannon  
Jane Hannon  
Cheryl Wolf  
Jim Rice

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Monaghan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Monaghan announced that the Board had met in Executive Session prior to the Finance Committee meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Monaghan announced that a reporter from Channel 3 had interviewed Dr. Masko and McKenzie Cloak and that they would be appearing on the News that day. He felt they had done a fine job.

Mrs. Mueller indicated that she had attended part of the Fine Arts Festival. She thanked everyone involved who supported the students during this.

Mr. Monaghan stated that the first Partnership Appreciation Day celebration was held earlier in the day, at which awards were given out.

Mr. Monaghan announced that there would be spring concerts and open houses at various schools throughout the week. On Saturday evening “From Galway to Broadway” would be playing at Tennent.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### Recognition of PA Educators Technology Expo Pin Design Contest Winner – Alex Stein

Dr. Masko explained that Alex Stein had been invited back. Mrs. Lyman spoke about the pin contest and showed a Power Point presentation. She presented Alex with a plaque and a framed picture of the pin, as well as a \$250 gift card from Best Buy.

### Winner of Montgomery-Bucks School Bus Safety Competition

Wayne Robinson spoke about the bus rodeo held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Centennial team took first place and the top two individual competitors were Larry Sicher and Larry Hannon. Out of seven members, five will go to the state competitions on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. He wished them well.

## **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. Masko presented the Good News Report (see attached.)

## **STUDENT REPORTS**

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

McKenzie Cloak reported on the following upcoming events:

- Partnership Appreciation Day was observed today.
- May 15 – Health Fair
- May 19 – Assembly with Rob Armstrong, a cartoonist for Jump Start
- May 21 – Presentation to all Social Studies classes by Stewart Greenleaf
- May 21 – Spring Concert
- May 22 – Life Skills Picnic
- May 23 – Senior Prom
- May 26 – Memorial Day – William Tennent Marching Band to play in parade
- May 28 – Orientation Day at Tennent for 8<sup>th</sup> graders
- June 3 – Induction for French Honor Society
- June 4 – Senior Awards Night

- June 5 – MBIT Graduation
- June 6 – Mr. Tennent Competition

### **MBIT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Chelsea Miller reported on upcoming events at MBIT:

- May 22 – New student orientation
- June 5 – Annual Senior recognition ceremony
- June 13 – Last day of school
- Weeks of July 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – Summer Career Enrichment Camp

Ms. Miller also reported that on May 29<sup>th</sup> the end-of-the-year show with the preschoolers in the Early Childhood Development class will be held and that everyone involved was really excited.

### **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Final Approval for WTHS Students' Trip to Quebec

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by students at William Tennent High School to Quebec, Canada from August 11-15, 2008. There is no cost to the District.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

2. Final Approval for WTHS Students' Trip to East Stroudsburg

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by the girls volleyball team at William Tennent High School to the high school team camp at East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA from July 25-July 27, 2008. There is no cost to the District.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

3. Final Approval for WTHS Students' Trip to Villanova

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants final approval for a trip by the boys basketball team at William Tennent High School to the high school team camp at Villanova, PA, from June 27 – June 29, 2008. There is no cost to the District.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

4. Preliminary Approval for Longstreth Elementary School Trip to Camp Canadensis, September 17-19, 2008

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Reinboth to resolve that the Centennial School Board grants preliminary approval for a trip by students at Longstreth Elementary School to Camp Canadensis, September 17-19, 2008. The cost to the District is not to exceed \$765.00*

Mr. Miller asked if other schools could do this trip.

Mr. Monaghan explained that it is the culture of this school and they have very dedicated volunteers. It is up to each school.

Jessica White from Longstreth stated that she had gone on this trip as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and now goes as a teacher. She felt that it is a wonderful trip and they would be happy to have other schools join them.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

5. Exception to Policy 7.18, Resident, Non-Resident and Tuition Status for Student 19-13

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves an exception to Policy 7.18 for Student 19-13 to attend McDonald Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year. The family will provide transportation.*

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that this had Administration's blessing.

Mr. Hezel asked if it was normal to grant these exceptions because a parent is a member of the HSA, as indicated in the backup. Mrs. Huf responded that that had nothing to do with it. That sentence should not have been included in the backup memo. It was merely for informational purposes.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

6. Approval of Video Broadcast of Board Meetings

Mrs. Mueller stated that in Operations this was approved 3-0 to come forward to the full Board. One of the things they wanted was that the Board have a policy on this. The times of the Board meetings would need to be changed because of the MBIT students.

Mrs. Lynch stated that this is something they have been trying to do for quite a while. The intention is to pursue this knowing that there are some things that need to be done.

Mr. Miller stated that as a member of the Operations Committee he was very much in favor of this and would like it read with a projected start date for the fall.

Mr. Monaghan suggested that this be pushed a few weeks later so that MBIT has its new class in place for the fall.

Mr. Lasher stated that we would like to start this as soon as possible but if we need to wait a few weeks, we could do that. Mr. Tully at MBIT had said that he could be ready for the first meeting in September.

Dr. Pollock stated that he thought we should go ahead with this and catch up with the Board policy later on.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Lynch to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the video broadcasting of Centennial School Board meetings live on the District's cable channels (Channel 28 on Comcast and Channel 36 on Verizon) as well as on the District's website. This service will be performed by MBIT students under the direction of Mr. Christopher Tully, the Multimedia/Technology instructor. The cost will not exceed \$11,000 for 2008-2009.*

Dr. Pollock asked if this could be amended to include non-live broadcast in other places. Mrs. Mueller indicated that that would be included in the policy.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

Mrs. Lynch stated that this was a long-time in coming but that it would help to get information out to the community.

7. Permission to Apply for Title I Federal (Ed-Flex) Waiver

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mrs. Mueller to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves permission to apply for an Ed-Flex Waiver for Longstreth Elementary School under the Title I 2008-2009 school year grant.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

8. Set 2008-2009 Proposed Final Budget/Set Adoption Date/Authorize Public Display

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Mr. Miller to resolve that the Centennial School Board adopts, in conformance with Special Session Act 1 of 2006, a preliminary general fund budget for FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$88,064,648. Said budget shall be put on display for public review beginning May 21, 2008. Administration is hereby authorized to advertise intent to adopt final budget at the regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for June 10, 2008.*

Mr. Miller stated that in the future he would like to see actual dates rather than 2008-2009.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

9. Calculation of Grade Point Averages for Students Attending Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

*A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the use of the Centennial School District secondary grading scale and grade point value as specified in policy 5.7, Reporting Student Progress, for all Centennial students, including students attending Middle Bucks Institute of Technology.*

*Be it further resolved that all student grades in Middle Bucks Institute of Technology courses specified as honors courses will be weighted as honors grades in accordance with policy 5.7.*

*This resolution is to be effective beginning in the 2007-2008 school year.*

Dr. Masko stated that he did some research on this following the meeting of the previous evening and found that the students taking honors courses at MBIT are not having their grades weighted properly. Therefore, they felt that MBIT students' grades should be weighted the same as they are for other students.

Mrs. Mueller thanked Administration for acting on this so quickly. She would like to make sure the students are notified.

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **PERSONNEL**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the following Personnel items: Resignations/Retirements/Leaves of Absence; Authorization to Employ; Change of Status; Per Diem Substitute Teachers; Substitute Support Staff; Substitute Bus Drivers; Mentors; Centennial Academy Elementary Summer Academic Program; and Co-Curricular.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **OPERATIONS AND POLICIES**

### Initial Distribution:

Mrs. Mueller noted the following policy for initial distribution:

- 4.2 – Conferences

### Discussion:

#### 2.1 – Employee Compensation

Dr. Masko explained that this references agreements with the CEA and that Mr. Vail had been working on a survey that is required by law regarding deferred compensation. He indicated that they wanted to recommend tabling this and bringing that language to this policy. This was at the suggestion of our solicitor, Mr. Levin.

Mr. Vail stated that that would be coming forward at the following week's Finance meeting and that it was to comply with new IRS regulations.

Mrs. Mueller clarified that this would be brought back under discussion items.

#### 7.14 – Tutorial Services

Mrs. Mueller noted that this policy had not been reviewed by the solicitor. She suggested that II.E. be moved to become I.C. Dr. Masko agreed that this made more sense.

### Final Approval:

#### 2.22 – Evaluation and Rating of Administrators

Mrs. Lynch asked why Section II. E. 1. was removed. She did not see this anywhere else in the policy.

This will be looked into and brought back at a future meeting.

#### 3.8 – Exclusion

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Hezel to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 3.8, Exclusion.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

#### 5.14 – Volunteers

Mr. Hezel questioned whether overnight chaperones were being left in. Mrs. Mueller stated that it had been decided that all chaperone language should be removed at this time since it might harm programs that are beneficial to children.

Mrs. Lynch did not feel that volunteers should be required to get all of these clearances.

Mr. Hezel asked if a ballpark estimate had ever been provided on how much it would cost the District to do this.

Mr. Vail stated that if we were going to change this from a reimbursement to an outright payment, there would have to be some parameters to keep it within the budget.

Mrs. Huf pointed out that this would exclude parents coming in to help in the classroom.

Mrs. Mueller asked about activities that are held in the classrooms, such as the book fair, or the musicals where a lot of parent help is needed.

Mr. Miller pointed out that volunteers could work in tandem rather than singly. He noted that we don't want to jeopardize the children or the programs. He felt this was a very poor policy and did not see how it could be moved forward.

Dr. Pollock stated that there are large retirement groups that would love to volunteer but if they have to go through this procedure, they wouldn't do it. He indicated that he would like to see this taken off the agenda until it could be looked at by the Board at one of the committee meetings.

Mr. Monaghan suggested contacting PSBA to see if they had a sample policy. Mr. Miller said that he could do that.

Mr. Monaghan suggested that we could see what some of the other school districts have done.

#### 7.16 – Elementary Class Size

Dr. Pollock stated that he could not support this policy. He pointed out that it is in kindergarten and first grade that the students start learning and that 25 students are too many. If there are more than 18 students, there should be more teachers. He did not think a teacher and an aide could do the job if there were 25 or more students. He stated that he would vote no on this every time if it goes beyond 18 students. He acknowledged that this costs money but it would be money well spent.

Mrs. Mueller clarified that what was before the Board was not a change. What Dr. Pollock was speaking about was making a change.

Mr. Reinboth stated that he intended to support this policy because it maintains the status quo on staffing. As Chairman of the Finance Committee, he would be happy to look into this in the fall but at this point in the budget process, he did not think this was something the committee could take on.

Dr. Masko stated that at this point Mrs. Homel was working with the principals and Mrs. Rollo to determine staffing needs for next year. Decisions have to be made by the end of May because by June 1<sup>st</sup> teachers must be told whether they have a job or not. Decisions must be made now.

Mr. Hezel agreed with Dr. Pollock on this but felt it might be a good idea to approve this so that the wording about “transitional” kindergarten would be official.

Dr. Pollock stated that he would be willing to vote for this now with the understanding that we look at the sizes of Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the fall with the idea of doing something for next year since it is too late now. There was consensus of the Board to do so.

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the revisions to Policy 7.16, Elementary Class Size.*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

### 2.7 – Outstanding Achievement Awards

Mrs. Mueller stated that this had not been reviewed by the solicitor.

Mr. Miller suggested adding the following phrase to the end of Section II.D: “... *within five years of selection of Outstanding Achievement Award.*”

Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the Board wanted to include the nominee’s supervisor.

It was decided to send this policy back to Mrs. Homel so that language could be added to provide that if the nominee’s supervisor will not sign the petition, there must be a reason.

## **FINANCIAL**

*A motion was made by Mr. Reinboth and seconded by Dr. Pollock to resolve that the Centennial School Board accepts the:*

- *Schedule of Bills – April 2008*
- *Investments – April 2008*
- *Cafeteria Fund Budget Report – April 2008*
- *Student Activity/Clearing Funds – January 1 through March 31, 2008*

*and approves the:*

- *Fund Profiles/Treasurer’s Report – April 2008*
- *Budgetary Transfers – May 2008*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **MINUTES**

*A motion was made by Mrs. Mueller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to resolve that the Centennial School Board approves the Minutes of the:*

- *Regular School Board Meeting – April 8, 2008*
- *Special Board Meeting – April 14, 2008*
- *Work Session/Regular School Board Meeting – April 23, 2008*

*The motion passed 9-0.*

## **BOARD DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

None.

## **REPORTS**

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. Masko reported that the high school design project was moving forward. On Thursday and Friday of the previous week a group of Board members and administrators were able to attend the School Construction Conference, where they were able to learn a great deal about this, including state procedures required for approval.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Lynch reported that the Education Committee had a lengthy meeting the previous evening. The following items were discussed: special education services; MBIT; William Tennent High School partnerships; Southampton Estates; review of April 22<sup>nd</sup> in-service day; William Tennent High School Reading courses for Grades 10 and 11; 2008-2009 staffing and transfer process; and a short review of full-day kindergarten.

Mrs. Lynch reported that there is a full agenda in June also. She thanked Dr. Foight-Cressman for her hard work.

### **Middle Bucks Institute of Technology**

Mrs. Huf reported on the following matters from the meeting held the previous evening:

- Competition winners were recognized.
- Students were inducted into the 2008 National Technical Honor Society.
- The search for a new Director was discussed. It has been narrowed down to six. Interviews will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Intermediate Unit

Mr. Monaghan reported that there would be a meeting on the following Wednesday.

### **FINANCE & LONG RANGE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Reinboth reported that the April meeting resulted in a number of items that were acted upon at the previous School Board meeting. There will be two more meetings: one on May 19<sup>th</sup> with a full agenda; another on May 20<sup>th</sup> at which the Board and community will review the budget.

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Mueller reported that the Operations Committee had met on April 29<sup>th</sup>, as follows:

- A representative from Burt Hill explained the status of the process, i.e., the schematic design phase. The design is still in development.
- A representative from Reynolds Construction Management spoke regarding cost savings that we can realize on this.
- The proposal for the concession stands was discussed.
- The e-mail system was discussed. Administration was directed to get an estimate for a two-year contract for spam filtering.
- A demonstration was given of Skyward.
- A motion was made for Administration to develop an RFP where we would own our own website instead of going outside for a vendor.
- Construction conference will be reported by Administrators and Board members.

The next meeting will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Citizens Policy

Mr. Monaghan reported that this committee would be starting again in September.

### Legislative Liaison

Mrs. Lynch reported that on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> there would be a conference in Harrisburg, which would be very informative about the state budget. The Senate is having an assessment bill, which PSBA opposes. This would restrict the authority of townships and school districts to seek assessment appeals.

Mrs. Lynch stated that there were too many other bills that were being worked on and that she knew Board members received information on these.

PSBA

Mr. Miller reported that he would be attending a regional technology conference at Council Rock High School later in the week.

On the upcoming weekend there would be a statewide nominating committee meeting for selection of PSBA officers for the following year.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Jim Rice of 686 Mueller Road, Warminster, stated that he agreed that paying that much money for clearances is a lot but he felt that some kind of compromise was needed. He felt that we can't just not have anything in place. This is not something he could just let fall off the table.

Mr. Miller explained that there is a policy in effect, which will remain in place until the new policy is adopted. We just want to do it in the best way.

**SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS/CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

See Schedule attached hereto.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Dr. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Huf to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Vickie A. Detwiler  
Board Secretary